

REMARKS

This communication is in response to the final Office Action that issued June 11, 2009. Claims 1-18 are currently pending in the instant application. Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,092,849 (“Sampson”). Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,989,216 (“Johnson”). Claims 1 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,772,270 (“Wiita”) or U.S. Patent 4,904,241 (“Bark”). With this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 12 have been amended to further clarify the invention.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-18 under U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the references cited above. Without conceding to the Examiner’s assertions of anticipation, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 12.

Regarding independent claims 1 and 12, it is submitted that the references do not anticipate the currently pending claims. “A claim is anticipated only if each and every element set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference.” *See MPEP § 2131; Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

The Examiner states on page 2 of the Office Action that none of the prior art references disclose a chamfer portion that is not perpendicular to the operative surface *and* the annular surface. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to include “the operative surface and the annular surface.” Applicants agree with the Examiner that nowhere in the Sampson, Johnson, Wiita or Bark references is this element disclosed.

Moreover, because all of the limitations of the independent claims are not found in the prior art, the same holds true for the claims that depend therefrom.

From the foregoing, the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) of claims 1-18 are believed to be overcome. It is, therefore, respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw these rejections.

CONCLUSION

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order and such action is respectfully requested.

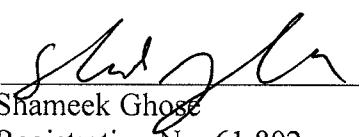
In the event that there are any questions relating to this Amendment or to the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would contact the undersigned attorney by telephone at (202) 373-6000 so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-4047 (706232.3003).

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 12/14/09

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